

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

American Medical Association, St. Louis, Missouri, May 15 to 19, 1939. Olin West, M.D., Secretary, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

California Medical Association, Hotel Del Monte, May 1 to 4, 1939. George H. Kress, M.D., Secretary, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

American College of Surgeons, New York, October 17 to 21, 1938. George W. Crile, M.D., 40 East Erie Street, Chicago, Chairman, Board of Regents.

Pacific Association of Railway Surgeons, Los Angeles, October 7 and 8, 1938. W. T. Cummins, M.D., Secretary, Southern Pacific General Hospital, San Francisco.

Medical Broadcasts*

Los Angeles County Medical Association

The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of October is as follows:

Saturday, October 1—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, October 6—KECA, 11:00 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, October 8—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, October 13—KECA, 11:00 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, October 15—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, October 20—KECA, 11:00 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, October 22—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, October 27—KECA, 11:00 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, October 29—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Silicosis.—Addressing the World Silicosis Conference, under the auspices of the International Labor Office, Geneva, Switzerland, Dr. R. R. Sayers, Senior Surgeon of the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the United States Public Health Service, declared it was the view of his Division that no worker should be removed from work to which he is accustomed, and at which he is able to earn his living, merely because a diagnosis of simple silicosis has been made.

"We hold, rather," Doctor Sayers explained, "that the atmospheric dust in which he works can and should be brought within safe limits. If this is done, his silicosis will not, we feel, advance appreciably more rapidly than if he were made a clerk or given outdoor employment. And if it is not done, removing him and putting a fresh man in his place will expose another worker to the same hazard.

"We urge that the man be left and the dust removed, rather than that the dust be left and the man removed.

"When active tuberculosis exists, it is another matter. Every tuberculous worker should be removed from a dusty industry, put under treatment and not permitted to return. Any further exposure to silica will be harmful to him and he constitutes a danger to his fellow workers."

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

New Director of La Vina Sanatorium.—Announcement has been made that Dr. Carl R. Howson of Los Angeles has been offered, and will accept, the medical directorship of La Vina Sanatorium. Doctor Howson, however, will continue in private practice and will maintain his offices in Los Angeles. He has accepted the La Vina directorship on a part-time basis.

Suggested Item on Humane Dog-Pound Law.—A layman, Mr. George E. Coleman of Santa Barbara, who is much interested in the defeat of the proposed Humane Dog-Pound Law—Initiative No. 2—has prepared a statement for possible use in physicians' offices. The text follows:

TO OUR PATIENTS

Your presence in this office denotes that you are suffering and probably have confidence in your physician. If so you will believe him when he tells you that by far the larger part of knowledge used in the diagnosis, prevention, or cure of disease has been gained directly or indirectly by the humane use of animals in medical research. If you are grateful for any benefit received from the medical profession, you will wish this knowledge extended to include those diseases which are now incurable.

Some of the proposed legislation now before the voters in this State, if passed, will be a menace to your health and welfare. You are urged to vote against all antimicrobial and antiscientific amendments or propositions. Please vote "NO" on Number 2, State Humane Pound Law.

Fair Exhibit to Reveal Mysteries After Birth.—While many of the secrets of birth remain hidden from the eyes of science, the former secrets of what transpire after birth are to be revealed in heroic proportions by the University of California as a part of its display at the Golden Gate International Exposition in 1939. Those microscopic germs of life, the plant and animal cells are to be "blown up" to giant size and literally taken apart, bit by bit, so that all might see how they develop and control life and its many manifestations. The protein molecules that make up the cells in animal bodies, and the cellulose molecules that make up plant life, will be magnified literally millions of times. Each of these molecules will be shown as composed of hundreds of atoms of carbon, oxygen and hydrogen, with a relatively few atoms of other elements included in the protein molecule. Each atom will be shown in its proper position relative to the other atoms of the molecule, while each atom will be colored characteristically to make the molecular structure more evident.

Following out this design, which will be placed on two spectacular models, one transparency will demonstrate the cellular structure of an oak tree, which is typical of any common plant life and another transparency will show the cellular structure of the house cat as an example typical of the animal kingdom.

Five large illustrated panels will show how these molecules and atoms determine various traits of living plants or animals—the fundamental story of heredity. Here the visitor will be introduced to the chromosomes, microscopic bearers of hereditary characteristics. Here also he will learn of the genes, the presumed molecular units of heredity themselves, which are the actual components of the chromosomes. The visitor will be able to see all of this fascinating cycle of life in action.

In recent years science has done much with the study of these chromosomes and particularly in the vinegar fly; have learned exactly where the invisible genes controlling heredity are located on these chromosomes with relation to each other. A large map of the egg cell of a vinegar fly will show its four chromosomes, and will locate various hereditary factors on these chromosomes, illustrating many of them by small colored transparencies.

Healthy Child Is Bright One.—More important to school children than the three R's are the A-B-C's of health education, declares Dr. L. C. Goffin, head of health education for Los Angeles City Schools, who has just been appointed a member of the teaching staff of the University of California Extension Division.

"School health education is now widely recognized to be the most important phase of school health service and the most fruitful branch of general public health education," says Doctor Goffin, who will instruct a course in school health education for the state University Extension Division, beginning September 23.

"A modern school health education program aims to train children in healthy habits of living, endow them with wholesome and discriminating attitudes toward health and disease and give them a sound foundation of health knowledge. It attempts to interpret all phases of life in terms of health. It considers not only the mental and physical health of the individual, but strives to inculcate a sense of civic and social responsibility for community and national health."

Squibb Institute for Medical Research.—The Squibb Institute for Medical Research of New Brunswick, New Jersey, announced the opening of the Institute as for Tuesday, October 11. The program of opening exercises follows:

Welcome. Mr. Carleton H. Palmer, President, E. R. Squibb & Sons.

The Squibb Institute for Medical Research, Dr. John F. Anderson, Vice-President, E. R. Squibb & Sons, Director of Biological Laboratories.

Clinical Investigation, Dr. George R. Minot, Director, Thorndyke Memorial Laboratory Boston City Hospital and Professor of Medicine at Harvard University.

Industrial Laboratories and Clinical Research, Dr. Russell M. Wilder, Professor of Medicine, Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minnesota.

Biology and Medicine in Coöperation, Professor August Krogh, Professor of Animal Physiology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Usefulness of Useless Knowledge, Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director, the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey.

The American Congress on Obstetrics and Gynecology.—The first American Congress devoted to a consideration of medical nursing and other problems associated with human reproduction was held in Cleveland, Ohio, from September 11 to 15, 1938, inclusive. It was designated as the American Congress on Obstetrics and Gynecology. The promotion and sponsorship of the Congress was delegated to the American Committee on Maternal Welfare, Inc. The latter includes the following organizations in its membership:

American Association of Obstetricians, Gynecologists, and Abdominal Surgeons.

American College of Surgeons.

American Gynecological Society.

American Hospital Association.

American Nurses' Association.

American Protestant Hospital Association.

American Medical Association Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology.

American Public Health Association.

Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Chicago Maternity Center.

Maternity Center Association of New York.

National Medical Association.

National League of Nursing.

National Organization for Public Health Nursing.

New England Obstetrical and Gynecological Society.

Pacific Coast Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Southern Medical Association.

United States Bureau of the Census.

United States Children's Bureau.

United States Public Health Service.

The purpose of this Congress is to afford opportunities for discussing and publicizing the problems associated with human reproduction and the health of women and new-born babies. . . .

The Nevada State Medical Association.—The thirty-fifth annual session of the Nevada State Medical Association was held at Reno, Friday, September 23, and Saturday, September 24.

Horace J. Brown, Secretary-Treasurer, reported an excellent program and attendance.

High Authority on Tropical Diseases Visits San Francisco.—Dr. Philip Manson-Bahr, Director of the Clinical Division, London School of Tropical Medicine, and one of the world's foremost authorities on tropical diseases, visited in San Francisco to deliver a series of lectures in this city and Berkeley. The first appearance was before the San Francisco County Medical Society. Later he addressed the students and staff of the University of California Medical School, San Francisco. Thursday evening, September 1, he spoke at Berkeley before the Berkeley chapter of Delta Omega, national public health honor society.

Doctor Manson-Bahr is the protégé and son-in-law of the late Sir Patrick Manson, "Father of Tropical Medicine," and holds a number of responsible posts under the British Government, among them being consultant in tropical medicine in the Royal Air Force and examiner in tropical medicine to the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons. While here Doctor Manson-Bahr attended the meetings of the National Bacteriological Society in the Hotel Fairmont.

American Public Health Association.—The scientific program of the sixty-seventh annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in Kansas City, Missouri, October 25 to 28, will engage the attention of more than 3,500 of the nation's health authorities, and indicates how closely the organization's Program Committee has been following national trends in public health progress.

There is considerable emphasis on the five major diseases which are being attacked throughout the land with Government funds. The grave problem of maternal and infant mortality receives its share of attention. A special session is devoted to a discussion of "Public Health Aspects of Medical Care" which it is expected will be one of the most significant of the entire conference, with exponents of the National Health Program, spokesmen for organized medicine and representatives of the newly recognized medical consumers, the public, on the platform.

The recruiting and training of public health personnel for the specialized tasks the expansion of health services are creating and for which trained workers are seriously lacking, is a major note in the varied program. The health department as a business organization is a new concept which will be treated by the special session method. Administrative procedures, accounting measures, including cost-accounting, will be considered. Many health departments are now on a parity with million-dollar enterprises and special techniques and formulae for the conduct of the big business of public health are definitely needed.

More than four hundred papers and reports will be presented and discussed in the four days the public health profession is in convention. The delegates are drawn from every state in the Union, from Canada, Cuba and Mexico, and from every branch of public health practice. This makes necessary many individual meetings of the Association's ten sections—Health Officers, Laboratory, Vital Statistics, Public Health Engineering, Industrial Hygiene, Food and Nutrition, Child Hygiene, Public Health Education, Public Health Nursing, and Epidemiology—where rock-bottom topics of interest to specialists alone are talked about and, in addition, sessions involving two or more sections where subjects of broader import cut across the lines of the Section organization. A number of symposia will bring together three and four of these divisions on such subjects as The Phosphatase Test in the Control of Milk Pasteurization; The Use of Biological Products; Water and Sewage; Frozen Desserts; Typhoid Fever; Pertussis; Nutritional Problems Industrial Hygiene.

For further information address The American Public Health Association, 50 West Fiftieth Street, New York, New York.

New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital. The New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital recently announced the opening of the Urological Department in its new clinic building. The medical profession is cordially invited to inspect this department, which is under the supervision of Drs. Joseph F. McCarthy, Daniel A. Sinclair, David Geiringer, and Howard S. Jeck and their associates.

The American Social Hygiene Association.—Plans for an expanded program of education in syphilis control and social hygiene to reach ultimately 35,000,000 young men and women throughout the nation were announced in New York recently by Dr. William F. Snow, Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the American Social Hygiene Association.

These activities, made possible by an anonymous contribution of \$25,000 will attempt, in addition to bringing knowledge of the venereal diseases before youth, to provide biological information and guidance in preparing young men and women for stronger and more enduring marriage and family relations, the announcement stated.

This gift, ear-marked for the youth project, brought the total contributed to the fund being raised by the Association's National Anti-Syphilis Committee to \$155,015.

"Of the nation's 35,000,000 individuals between sixteen and thirty years of age, it is estimated that about 5,000,000 are suffering from syphilis or gonorrhea," said Doctor Snow. "No other dangerous communicable disease takes as many victims from this age group as these twin plagues which can be curbed and can be cured."

The program will get under way by October 1 and is expected to reach its peak of intensity for the year around Third National Social Hygiene Day on February 1, 1939.

During the campaign among youth, appeals will be made for continued coöperation of press and radio to supplement the home, church, and school. Leaflets, posters, handbills, and a special "newspaper" are being designed to aid in teaching young persons the facts about syphilis and gonorrhea, how exposures are avoided, and what treatment is necessary when infections occur. These same educational facilities will be utilized to assist them in preparing for lasting and happy marriages.

Science May Have Found Substitute for Morphin.—The development of a new drug which apparently has many of the pain-relieving properties of morphin and codein, but appears to lack some of the addiction factors of the former, is announced by the pharmacy laboratories of the University of California. The new drug and its properties were first announced by Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, Professor of Pharmacology in the University, at the recent meeting of the British Pharmacologic Society at Oxford University, London, England. The studies of the drug had been made by Dr. Leake, Dr. George Emerson, Associate Professor of Pharmacology at the University of West Virginia, and Benedict Abreu and N. M. Phatak, graduate students in pharmacy in the University of California.

They state that the experimental studies on DNPM are of such interest that the drug deserves careful clinical trial as a possible substitute for morphin.

The new drug is a combination of dinitrophenol, the fever-producing drug, recently used with unfortunate results in the uncontrolled treatment of obesity, and morphin. Strikingly, the new drug which is called Dinitrophenyl-morphin, or DNPM, has none of the action of dinitrophenol, but is much more like codein and morphin.

Experiments on animals and normal human subjects indicate that the drug has pain-relieving properties and respiratory effects somewhat similar to morphin and greater than codein. Animal experimentation also suggests that it may have less addiction effect than morphin. But the University workers are careful to point out that any chemical which produces a feeling of well-being and relief from pain, may become an addiction drug in a person desiring to escape from an unpleasant health environment. These studies are being published in the new University of California series on pharmacology now being issued by the University Press.

Forced Population Increase May Invite Famine.—Before any nation or people undertake to increase the population through mass marriages or any other device, it should determine whether the nation's food resources can accommodate such increase, or disaster may result. This was stated in a paper read recently before the Third International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Malaria, meeting in Amsterdam, Holland, by Dr. Alfred C. Reed, Professor of Tropical Medicine in the University of California.

Doctor Reed is president-elect of the American Society of Tropical Medicine, which is meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 14 to 17. At that meeting he will assume the presidency, which he will hold during the year 1939. At present he is visiting a number of hospitals in London. He departed on July 23, his schedule calling for visits to Beirut, Damascus, Jerusalem, Cairo, Rhodes, Athens, Italy, France, Stockholm, Copenhagen, London, and Holland.

Fourth International Congress on Comparative Pathology.—The National Research Council of Rome, Italy, has recently published a pamphlet containing the program and rules of the Fourth International Congress on Comparative Pathology, which, as decided at the 1936 Congress held in Athens, Greece, will be held in Italy May 15 to 20, 1939.

The Congress will comprise three sections: (1) Section on Human Medicine; (2) Section on Veterinary Medicine; (3) Section on Phytopathology.

Papers submitted to any Section must be related to the main topic and be as concise as possible. A summary of about one hundred words should also accompany the papers, which must be in by March 31, 1939, at the very latest. The official languages of the Congress will be English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. The general reports will be published in the original language, with summaries in the five official languages. They will be distributed to all members before the opening of the Congress.

Application and fee may be sent either through the applicant's National Committee or directly to the Secretariat of the Congress, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Piazzale delle Scienze, Roma, Italy.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press, on matters related to medical practice, follow:

Medics Face Anti-Trust Action Society Accused of Boycotting Health Groups

Warning Given

Washington, July 31.—(INS)—The mighty American Medical Association tonight became the announced target of the Administration's anti-monopoly drive, and its officers prospective defendants in federal criminal proceedings.

Accusing the American Medical Association of a country-wide boycott of cooperative health groups, the Justice Department announced it will seek indictment of the responsible physician-officers by a District of Columbia grand jury.

A policy statement signed by the chief of the department's antitrust division, Thurman Arnold, declared the boycott a violation of the Sherman Act. Attorney-General Cummings approved the statement.

Blasts Organization

Arnold's criticism blasted organized medicine generally. He charged the profession with failure to provide "adequate medical care" at a cost within the public's ability to pay.

Instead, he said, the profession, through the American Medical Association, has tried to throttle "an illuminating experiment" in low-cost medical care by ostracizing physicians employed by health groups and denying them hospital facilities.

Policy of the American Medical Association, and its affiliated medical society of the District of Columbia, towards Group Health Associates, Inc., of Washington, was cited by Arnold as a typical boycott on which the criminal proceedings will be based.

Door Left Open

The district society's officers will be named defendants along with the American Medical Association's. The statement mentioned no names.